DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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900 MILLION ALLIES

German Democratic Republic Signs Warsaw Pact

The people of the German Democratic Republic have 900 million allies in their struggle for peace and the creation for the first time in history of a peaceable and really democratic Germany.

This is the result of the signature on May 14th of the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid. The treaty was signed by the representatives of the Soviet Union, the European People's Democracies, and the German Democratic Republic in the name of the 300,000,000 inhabitants of these countries. The Chinese People's Republic did not sign the Treaty, but the support of the 600,000,000 people of China was pledged by General Peng Teh-huai, Deputy Chairman of the Council of State.

The signatories of the Warsaw Treaty pledged immediate assistance to any one of their number who is exposed to armed attack, and decided to establish a unified command for the armed forces of the signatory nations. The official communique on the establishment of this unified command stated specifically:

"The question of the participation of the German Democratic Republic in measures connected with the armed forces of the unified command will be discussed later."

The preamble to the Warsaw Treaty stated that the remilitarisation of West Germany and its inclusion in the North Atlantic Pact represented a threat to the national security of the peace-loving states. "Under these circumstances these states must take the necessary steps to guarantee their security and the maintenance of peace in Europa", the preamble stated.

The various articles of the Warsaw Treaty provide for cooperation between the eight signatory nations — Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Soviet Union — not only if one of them is the victim of armed attack, but also in many other fields.

Here is a condensed survey of the individual articles of the Warsaw Treaty:

Article 1

The signatories pledge themselves to settle international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 2

The signatories pledge their cooperation in all international actions aimed at the maintenance of peace, and in particular effective measures of general disarmament and for the banning of the A and H bombs.

Article 3

Provides for joint discussions when one of the signatories believes that an armed attack on its territory is imminent.

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New Soviet Proposal:
ALL TROOPS OUT

All occupation troops should be withdrawn immediately from both East and West Germany, the Soviet Government proposed on May 10th.

The proposal was one of the detailed points in the new Soviet disarmament plan submitted on that date to the United Nations. The proposals were put in the form of a draft resolution for the United Nations General Assembly. Here is the text of the paragraph affecting Germany:

"The General Assembly believes that it would contribute to the relaxation of international tension, and to the creation of the necessary confidence between the nations if the Four Powers – the Soviet Union, the United States of America, Great Britain and France – should immediately withdraw their occupation troops from German territory to their own national territory, with the exception of strictly limited contingents which would be left upon German territory until the conclusion of an agreement on their total withdrawal.

"These ends would also be served by the establishment of strictly limited contingents of local police forces in both parts of Germany, and the establishment of a joint Four Power control over the agreement on this subject."

(cont. from front page)

900 MILLION ALLIES

Article 4

Provides that in the case of armed attack on one or more of the signatories, all other signatories shall give immediate assistance, including armed assistance, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. All such measures shall be notified to the Security Council, and shall cease as soon as the Security Council has taken the steps necessary for the restoration of peace.

Article 5

Provides for the establishment of a unified command and "other appropriate measures necessary for the strengthening of defence".

Article 6

Provides for the establishment of a political consultative committee, which in turn can appoint sub-commissions on various problems.

Article 7

The signatories pledge themselves not to participate in coalitions and alliances with aims contrary to those of the Warsaw Treaty.

Article 8

The signatories pledge themselves to develop still further the economic and cultural cooperation between their countries.

Article 9

Other states, irrespective of their social and state order, are entitled to become signatories of the Warsaw Treaty.

Article 10

The treaty must be ratified, and comes into force as soon as all signatory states have deposited the ratification documents.

Article 11

The treaty is valid for 20 years. It will be automatically cancelled in the case of the signature of an All-European Treaty on Collective Security.

* * *

Upon signing the Warsaw Treaty, Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, made the following official declaration:

"The German Democratic Republic regards the reunification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis as its main task, and the main task of the German people, and will do everything to speed up the reunification of Germany. In signing the present treaty, the Government of the German Democratic Republic proceeds on the assumption that reunified Germany will not be bound by military-political treaties and agreements entered into by either part of Germany before reunification."

WARSAW TREATY & PARIS AGREEMENTS — A COMPARISON

The enormous differences between the Warsaw Treaty and the Paris Agreements under which West Germany joined NATO were emphasised on May 15th by the newspaper "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The paper stated:

"It was an important political occasion when, after the signature of the Warsaw Treaty, Otto Grotewohl (Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic) declared that the reunification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis remained the main task of the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the German people ...

"All allegations that the aim of the Warsaw Treaty is the creation of a block, after the western pattern, aimed at the lasting partitioning of Germany, have thus been decisively disposed of. This was underlined by Grotewohl's further statement that the Government of the German Democratic Republic, in signing the treaty, had proceeded on the assumption that a reunited Germany would be free of all military-political obligations assumed by the separate parts of Germany before the reunification ...

"This is in great contrast to the demands stubbornly made by Adenauer (West German Chancellor) that the Paris War Agreements should be extended to the whole of Germany. The Pacts signed by the Bonn Government exclude the possibility of Germany being reunited peacefully ...

"There is another very obvious difference. In concluding the Paris Agreements the Bonn Government gave its western partners the sole right of decision on questions of reunification. The Government of the German Democratic Republic, on the other hand, possesses the full rights of a sovereign nation in this decisive question. This fact too has been impressively confirmed by the Warsaw Conference.

"With the help of the Paris Agreements it is intended to convert West Germany into a basis of aggression menacing the peoples of Europe. American and West German politicians and military men have proclaimed this openly often enough ... But even the most hostile tongues cannot pretend that the German Democratic Republic could ever become a threat to other peoples. The Warsaw Treaty is not directed against any other nation. Its sole aim is to guarantee peace and security for all peoples. Only the open enemies of peace have any reason to be worried by this Treaty."

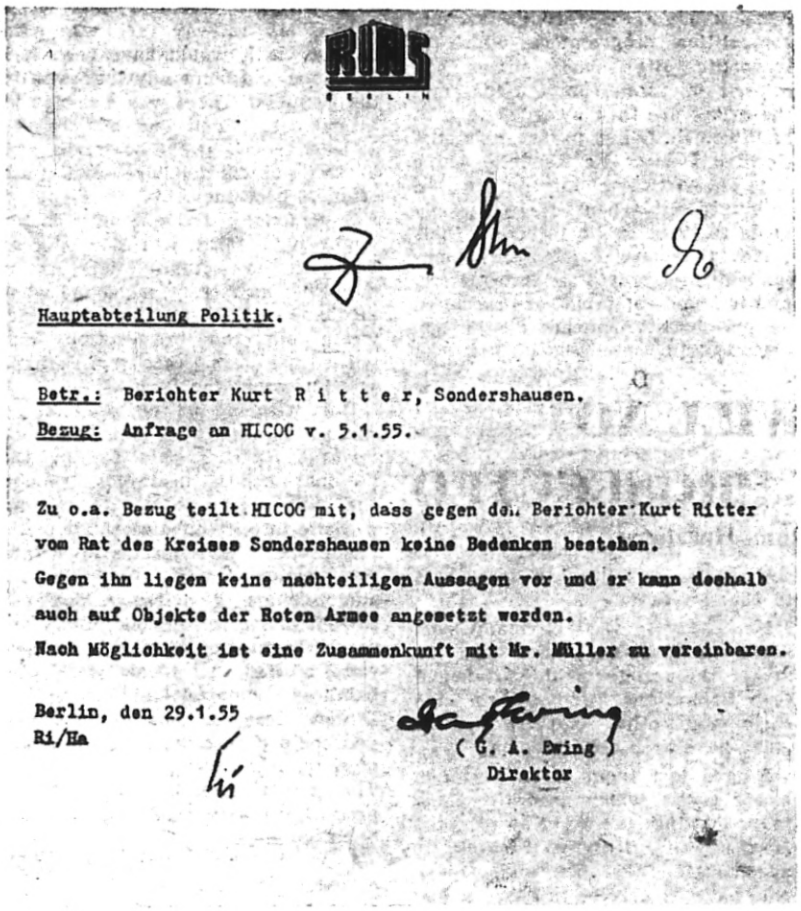
Thomas Mann Honours Schiller

Thomas Mann, great German writer who now lives in Switzerland, visited Weimar in East Germany in the middle of May to attend the celebration there of the 150th anniversary of the death of German classical poet and dramatist Friedrich Schiller.

Mann's lecture on Schiller was the high point of a week of celebrations in Weimar, in the course of which Schiller's main dramatic works were presented by some of the best theatre companies from East and West Germany.

During his stay in the German Democratic Republic Thomas Mann accepted appointment as an honorary member of the German Academy of Arts, which has its headquarters in East Berlin.

RADIO STATION OR SPY CENTRE?



RIAS
BERLIN

Hauptabteilung Politik.

Betr.: Berichter Kurt R i t t e r, Sondershausen.

Bezug: Anfrage an HICOG v. 5.1.55.

Zu o.a. Bezug teilt HICOG mit, dass gegen den Berichter Kurt Ritter vom Rat des Kreises Sondershausen keine Bedenken bestehen.
Gegen ihn liegen keine nachteiligen Aussagen vor und er kann deshalb auch auf Objekte der Roten Armee angesetzt werden.
Nach Möglichkeit ist eine Zusammenkunft mit Mr. Müller zu vereinbaren.

Berlin, den 29.1.55
Ri/Ha

(G. A. Ewing)
Direktor

(translation)

RIAS (Radio in American Sector)
Berlin

Political Department

Subject: Informant Kurt Ritter, Sondershausen

Reference: Query addressed to HICOG (US High Commission in Germany) on 5.1.55

To the above-mentioned query HICOG states that there is no objection to the informant Kurt Ritter from the District Council of Sondershausen.

No detrimental statements are available against him, and he can therefore also be utilised against Red Army installations.

If possible a meeting with Mr Muller should be arranged.

Berlin 29.1.55 G. A. Ewing
Ri/Ha Director

The American State Department maintains a costly German-language radio station in West Berlin, known as RIAS, the abbreviation for Radio in American Sector.

This radio station claims to be a normal transmitter, providing music, entertainment and news for Berlin and the surrounding area.

In fact, as the facsimile letter reproduced on this page shows, the station is directly engaged in military espionage. Sondershausen is a town in the German Democratic Republic, and Kurt Ritter was an employee of the District Council who for some reason (political opposition, personal revenge, financial gain, or through blackmail) volunteered information to the radio station about what was happening in his district.

The "Political Department" of RIAS checked with American Intelligence to see if they could use the informant, and Mr G. A. Ewing, a US State Department employee who directs RIAS, gave direct instructions in his letter for Ritter to be employed as a spy against Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic.

The originals of many other "confidential instructions" given by director G. A. Ewing to the Political Department of RIAS have come into the possession of the State Security Service of the German Democratic Republic.

On February 14th 1955, for instance, Mr Ewing addressed instructions to all the "interviewers" employed by the Political Department of his singular radio station which stated:

"A review of the reports which have come in in the latest period shows that more attention must be devoted to winning new collaborators in the East Sector (of Berlin, ed.) and the Soviet Occupation Zone (German Democratic Republic, ed.).

"Interviewers are therefore requested to give careful attention to this question, and above all to attempt to win informants in the big factories (Buna, Leuna, Riesa Steel Works, etc.)."

Details of some of the leading "interviewers" have been given by Richard Buchwald, a RIAS agent arrested by the East German State Security Service. According to his evidence, the Political Department

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RADIO STATION OR SPY CENTRE?

of RIAS maintains three sections dealing directly with espionage. They are:

1. Section "People's Police and Soviet Army", headed by Johann Parsenow, alias Zerbe, former major in Goering's Luftwaffe Ministry.

2. Section "Economics and Industry" headed by Frau Thum, alias Stein, former Gestapo official.

3. Section "Officials, Parties and Organisations" headed by Hans Froehnel, alias Ernst, former nazi army officer.

Other RIAS agents arrested in East Germany have testified that one of the ways in which RIAS recruits agents is through various competition programmes which it transmits. Big money prizes are offered in these competitions, and the prizes are then awarded to men and women living in areas of the German Democratic Republic which are of particular interest to US Intelligence. When these people come to West Berlin to collect their prizes they are cajoled or blackmailed into providing information, and if found "suitable" are recruited as permanent members of the spy organisation.

TRESPASSERS WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED

By Hans Herzberg

The author of this article is a young German journalist who spent the war years in Britain as a refugee from nazi tyranny.

He was arrested by West Berlin police on completely baseless "spy" charges while covering a public meeting on April 20th. Public pressure from inside and outside Germany forced his release on May 12th.

There are many beauty spots in England, Scotland and Wales. The wanderer's eye is caught again and again by glimpses of serene green meadows or fields surrounded by flowering hedges with trees dotted here and there.

To be sure, these sights are often enough crowned by a noble manor-house tucked away in a park, well guarded by towering bushes, barking dogs and signboards reading "Private! Keep Out!" or "Trespassers will be prosecuted!"

When I was living in Britain the best parts of the country were barred to the public. I often thought what wonderful holiday and convalescent homes and sanatoria could have been made out of these castles and manor houses with their lovely parks set in a beautiful landscape.

It was with some regret that I used to peep through gates at the drives and parks leading up to these houses. In fact, most ordinary people never get a closer look at them than from behind these signboards, and only know from books about the kind of life that goes on behind them.

Germany also abounds in such romantic places. Gentry and rich people here also developed a fine taste for quiet spots in the countryside, and liked to keep them to themselves too.

But today in East Germany such parks and manor-houses are no longer the refuge of the privileged few. Behind the "iron curtain" the social and other barriers against entry have been broken down.

I have just spent three weeks in a big castle which used to belong to a hunting family. Nowadays it is used, and fittingly, I think, to accomodate fifty men and women who have been ill or in hospital and who need a real rest, for a three weeks' convalescent cure. Most of them are workers and office employees and some are old age pensioners.

I can hear some of my readers muttering: "Much ado about nothing! As if we didn't have convalescent homes in Britain too! What is the man bragging about? Probably founded by some rich chap as a charity."

But let me explain that convalescent homes in the German Democratic Republic have nothing to do with charity. They are a part of the national health system, for which the people, the government and the trade unions all pay.

The workers contribute 10% of their wages, but not more than 60 marks a month; the employer doubles the amount, and the government pays huge sums every year for this purpose. The trade unions add from their funds and supervise the whole scheme.

Every worker draws 90% of his usual salary for a period of six weeks when he is ill or convalescent; 50% comes from the national health insurance, the rest is made up by his factory or office. Medical services are free of charge.

I stayed at a convalescent home 60 miles away from Berlin, where I live. My railway fare was paid for me, as it would have been if I had gone to a home anywhere within the Republic. There was a doctor in attendance, whom one had to see at least twice—at the beginning and at the end of the cure—and more often if necessary.

I personally thought our doctor might have taken a closer look at us than he actually did. As it happened he merely asked me what medicine or diet—if any—I required, wrote out the prescription, and wished me a good recovery. Perhaps you have met the type.

But with a bit of prodding a doctor will change his mental outlook towards patients paid for by the national health insurance, though that may not be so easy as turning a castle into a convalescent home.

A proper diet is just as important for convalescents as pleasant surroundings. 9 marks a day per patient are spent on food, and I am not exaggerating when I say we were stuffed. All meals were well balanced, home cooked and varied. Dinner deserves special mention; you could choose between two kinds of soup, meat courses and desserts. The woman cook had a knack for producing tasty and scientifically balanced meals.

I must admit we were a bit crowded. Married couples had a room to themselves of course, but I shared a big room with four other men. The manager told us he had been asked to accomodate even more guests, but he had refused to overcrowd the home. More such homes must and will be built, but for the time being we have to put up with some draw-backs.

I found the library a good one. It had not belonged to the former owner. Almost all books were post-war editions, many classics amongst them. I picked out John Galsworthy's "Forsyte Saga" and enjoyed it no end.

There were all kinds of games—draughts, chess and cards. We had film shows twice a week and artists came to perform twice during our stay.

You will surely agree with my approval of a government which offers the common people such opportunities. We do not want to lose them again. There is plenty of work to be done here clearing away the debris of war and building a new future, and we manage very well without men who shut the people out of their estates as well as out of the government.

"Dear Joe . . ."

Letter from an American Engineer

Dear Joe,

As you know, I have been living in East Germany for three years now, and can say that the Germans are just as hungry for information about America as Americans and Englishmen are for true facts about life behind the "iron curtain". Of course, the questions asked are somewhat different. I am mostly asked questions like: "What chances do young people in America have to get ahead?" or "What is the true story of the Rosenberg case?" Most East Germans are still very much concerned over the fate of the Rosenbergs, which apparently did quite a lot to smother illusions about American democracy.

In your letter you have come right out with such questions as:

"How much do you earn?", and "What is the cost of living?" Such questions are really impossible to answer in terms of figures, but it is best to make a try, so nobody will think I am trying to evade an answer.

I'm working here in my old trade of engineer, so I shall write from my standpoint.

In the factory where I work the engineers who are not in executive positions are paid according to the following scales:

Group 1
480 to 580 marks a month
Group 2
620 to 745 marks a month
Group 3
795 to 910 marks a month
Group 4
1,030 to 1,240 marks a month
Group 5
1,320 to 1,600 marks a month

In the first group are young men with technical training but without a university degree. In the second group are the young engineers fresh out of college. The succeeding groups are for the various engineers according to length of experience and ability. There is incentive enough for individual initiative, and you don't have to work a particular number of years to get into a particular group. I have worked about six years and am in Group 4 here.

What can I buy for my money? Here are two examples. My wife worked in a kindergarten attached to a plant. The children of plant employees were there all day, got a warm midday meal, supervision by trained kindergarten teachers, and regular medical and dental inspections in the kindergarten. The cost for the first child in a family is 10 marks a day, for the second child 5 marks and the third child goes free.

On the other hand, my wife pays 26 marks a pair for top quality Perlon stockings, (just like Nylons) you can get cheaper grades for 11.50 marks though.

Here you will probably stop and say: "What! 10 marks for a whole month in a kindergarten, and 26 marks for a pair of Perlons? That's crazy!" The reason, however, is not so illogical after all. In line with the policy of equal rights for women, and especially the right to work, everything is done so that as many women as possible can send their children to a kindergarten. Facilities have been built in all towns, and many women trained for kindergarten supervision. In the day-nurseries for smaller children, supervision is only by trained nurses!

Perlon goods, on the other hand, have a high export value, and this country is dependent on foreign trade for many essentials, so that citizens of East Germany, for the time being, have to pay a high price for Perlon goods.

Well now, how are we going to compare the standard of living? If we consider primarily the things like kindergarten care, apartment rents, medical care, sports, vacations, education, or a meat dinner in the factory, we can easily "prove" that life here is much cheaper than in America. If we consider mostly the things like Perlon stockings, automobiles, television sets, English wool, or a Sunday dinner in a first-class restaurant, we can "prove" that life is unbearably expensive.

From my own point of view I can only say that we have never, not in any single month, had to watch our consumption of butter, meat, bread, potatoes or any other necessity. Incidentally, I eat meat meals twice a day—in the plant, where we are served by waitresses at neatly set tables, the meal consisting of soup, meat, potatoes, a vegetable and dessert—and at home in the evenings. I also take along meat or cold-cut sandwiches for a snack between meals. However, there is a shortage of southern fruits here—oranges, bananas and so on, and sometimes weeks go by without our being able to buy adequate fresh fruit.

On the other hand, we have made considerable progress brightening up our household, and in the past year and a half we have bought an electric vacuum cleaner, a wash-helper and a refrigerator. These were all bought the "easy way"—no down payments, no monthly installments, just cash-on-the-line, and it's yours all at once!

The quality of these articles was satisfactory, but sometimes you can get annoyed by poor workmanship too. I bought an electric shaving machine—it cost 32 marks, which is quite cheap, when you consider my American machine cost over 25 dollars, and the salaries here are higher. But the machine has been in and out of the repair shop very often, and I am not very confident about it now.

But these are questions which I consider to be of secondary importance. I am now more convinced than ever that my decision to come to the German Democratic Republic was the right one, because we now have a four-month-old son. If I still lived in America, we would soon have the job of fighting against all the terribly demoralising influences which are destroying human dignity in the west.

How do you keep a child from reading Comic Books, from seeing sex and murder films, from learning that the best way to get ahead is over the necks of his friends and neighbors? Here it is all quite different. My son will not learn that the best way to protect himself from atomic attack is to buy a special type of blanket or to crawl under his school table and cover his eyes with his arms. He will learn that the best way is to outlaw the atom bomb, promote friendship among nations, and get ahead in life on the basis of his own ability.

Here my wife and I have every opportunity to raise our child to be a fighter for peace, for freedom and for equality—and that is much more important to me than the price of Perlon stockings or the quality of an electric shaving machine!

Fred Gordon

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN EAST GERMANY

By Werner Krecek, Student of Journalism, Karl Marx University, Leipzig

Amongst the 12,400 students of the Karl Marx University in Leipzig are a number of foreign students, most of them from People's China and the Korean People's Republic, and others from Vietnam, Czechoslovakia and the other European People's Democracies, as well as a few from capitalist countries.

There is a foreign department in the Workers' and Peasants' Faculty, where foreign students prepare for the university, generally in a one-year course.

Students live in a pleasant hostel outside Leipzig, in cheerfully furnished, sunny rooms for two, three, four or five, as far as possible with students of different nationalities sharing a room, including one German student who helps them with the language.

Teachers have worked out special methods to help foreign students to get over the initial difficulties as quickly as possible, and in the first twelve weeks 30 of the 40 study hours are devoted to learning German, so that at the end of the year, they are able to follow the regular university lectures. Students having special difficulties get extra help in tutorial classes.

There are already about 40 foreign students who have completed their preliminary year studying Marxism-Leninism, Philosophy, German, Journalism, Economics, Medicine, Physics, Pharmacy, Agriculture and Horticulture. Some of these are at the Karl Marx University in Leipzig, and others at the Institute of Technics in Dresden and the Mining Academy in Freiberg, and this year foreign students will begin their studies at seven universities, at the Leipzig Academy of Music and at the German Institute of Physical Education in Leipzig.

During the preliminary year students get to know their teachers very well, for they go to theatres, films and concerts, and take their holidays together; students often visit their teachers at home and teachers spend evenings with them in the hostel, when the various national groups put on programmes of songs, dances and talks on their homelands. Together they visit factories and villages to learn about life in the Republic.

One teacher who now works in Rostock came to Leipzig on her holiday especially to visit her former Chinese and Korean students, and they took a trip to Rostock to see her. When students go on to other universities they often come back to their old faculty to spend a few evenings with students and with their former teachers.

The Chinese students are very keen on sport, and they play volleyball and football matches against Soviet teams, university students and teams from the German Institute of Physical Education. They are very fine volleyball players.

Holidays are spent on the Baltic Sea, in the Thuringian forests, in the Harz mountains, in the Saxon Alps or on the Spree, and last year students had a week of winter sports, which was a special event for those who came from countries where they never see snow, like South China, Africa and Vietnam.

Chinese students take a very lively interest in German affairs. They have collected money and sent gifts to West German political prisoners and strikers, and they went out with Soviet soldiers and East German workers and People's Police to help fight the floods which swept over wide areas of the Republic in the summer of 1954.

Many of these foreign students are themselves veterans of their own national liberation struggles, and they study with enormous concentration and enthusiasm so that they can return home as quickly as possible to speed up the peaceful reconstruction of their homelands.

WEST GERMAN "YOUTH CONFERENCE" SCARES SCOTTISH MINER

A young Scottish miner who recently attended a "Youth Conference" in West Germany has come back scared by the "dangerous tendencies which exist in Germany at the present time".

The young miner, George Bolton, member of the Scottish Miners' Youth Committee, attended the "Ninth International Youth Conference" held at Sonnenberg in West Germany, and reported on his experiences in "The Scottish Miner" of April 1955. Here are some of the interesting points from his report:

"It was not a conference in the sense that there were resolutions to be discussed and voted upon, but rather it was a process of indoctrinating us with (West) Germany's ideas on how to solve many of the problems confronting the young people of Europe . . .

"The subject of the first lecture was 'What is hindering the uniting of Europe?' The lecturer dealt at great length on the fact that the nationalist instincts in the various countries were preventing the uniting of Europe, but he completely disregarded the economics of the situation . . .

"Another very important item discussed was the question of German rearmament. During the discussion we discovered that the lecturer did not believe in peaceful co-existence or East-West trade, which meant that he must believe in war between East and West and that a new German army would not be used for defence, as we are told, but rather for aggression against the East.

"We had lectures on politics and international understanding, the tasks of men near the zonal border, the formation of Europe past and present, and every one of these lectures developed into nothing more than a bitter anti-Communist propaganda. It became so boring that some of the students were playing chess while the lecturers were speaking.

"I would like to thank the coal board for the opportunity of attending the conference, because while I do not agree with all that was said, at least I have been made aware of some of the problems and dangerous tendencies that exist in Germany at the present time and in this respect I have gained something."

FROM "EAST ZONE" TO GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

By Commander Edgar P. Young, R. N. Retired

Attendance at this year's Spring Fair at Leipzig, an exhilarating experience, gave me the opportunity, when it was over, to have a run round the German Democratic Republic, just to see how things had changed since I had last done this, in the summer of 1949.

I had been prepared for what I was to see on this trip by what I saw while in Leipzig, one of the many towns which I had visited on the previous occasion. As I stepped out of the central station on my arrival there, I had been struck by the amazing improvement in the general appearance and morale of the people whom one saw in the street. This first impression had to be "weighted", of course, to allow for "Fair atmosphere" etc., but on the whole it was borne out by what I saw elsewhere in the course of my travels.

And the explanation is an obvious one: in 1949, what was then the East Zone was working hard to pay reparations to the U. S. S. R., Poland and Czechoslovakia, and at the same time to keep alive; since 1953 the exaction of reparations has ceased, and the whole of the vastly expanded industrial potential built up — with the help of the U. S. S. R., Poland and Czechoslovakia — in what has blossomed into the German Democratic Republic has become the property of the German people, as is indicated by the letters VEB (Volkseigener Betrieb — nationally owned enterprise), which precedes the names of the various works and factories.

This means that the whole of the wealth produced there goes to the credit of the German people, and though a large part of this must be set aside to pay off the colossal capital investment involved in economic development over the past ten years, and still in progress or projected, and to cover the cost of rebuilding housing, schools etc. destroyed in the war, the amount left over for current consumption mounts steadily, and is already substantial.

There are, of course, cases of hardship, but these are now exceptional; the bulk of the people, of all classes, are now living pretty well, except as regards housing, and the impact of this last is much mitigated by various collective amenities, backed up by the comfort of virtually absolute security against unemployment.

At Dresden, where I went first, I was much impressed by the way in which all the rubble had been cleared from the centre of the town, which was wiped out, it will be recalled, on the night of February 13—14th, 1945, by the U.S. Army Air Force. The effect of it gave me quite a shock; over an area of some six square miles there is not a building of any kind, and the trams which wind their way along the former streets look crazy. It will take an awfully long time, of course, to rebuild housing for 75,000 families, but while this is being done, the City Council is, very wisely I believe, going ahead with the reconstruction of public buildings, such as the famous group of museums and art galleries known as the Zwinger, the shattered fragments of which have been pieced together, statues and all, and replaced, where necessary, from photographs, and the old Roman Catholic cathedral, the Hofkirche, and the Protestant Frauenkirche.

What struck me even more than this, however, was the reconstruction and extension on a tremendous scale of the Technische Hochschule (corresponding to our Imperial College of Science and Technology in London); this used to have between two and three thousand students before the last war. It has now eight thousand, about half of whom are children of workers or peasant farmers, and it will have fourteen thousand students when completed in 1960.

Several other institutions of this character in the German Democratic Republic are being similarly expanded, I was told.

From Dresden I went North to the Baltic coast, to have a look at the shipyards. The "People's Shipyard" at Stralsund, a place with a romantic history into which I cannot now go, was barely in production in 1949. Today the plans, which had once seemed almost too ambitious, are all but completed. Fishing loggers of 475 tons, with finely welded hulls, are coming off the assembly lines at a rate of one very three days — one hundred a year.

The yard now employs 6,000 workers (three times as many as in 1949), working a 48-hour week, in three shifts. It has about 800 apprentices under training, and it is interesting to note that 17 per cent of these are women. It also employs 180 social workers in its well equipped polyclinic, canteens, library, club and sports installations — all paid for out of a generous part of the profits known as the "Director's Fund".

The nationally owned Warnow Werft, at Warnemuende, is in some ways even more impressive, because, like the nationally owned Mathias Thesen Warf in Wismar, it has been built almost entirely since my last visit — which is saying something when one considers that it has the largest ship-building sheds in Europe, with a floor space of over 215,000 square feet, whence prefabricated sections of up to 50 tons are run out along a modern cable-crane system, to be welded together on the two slips into ships of up to 10,000 tons. The building time is already only 18 months, and will eventually be reduced to half that! Some of these ships have already gone to the Chinese People's Republic, which has several more on order, and some are for the young East German merchant fleet, which will carry the products of the German Democratic Republic all over the world.

Those who created this yard out of nothing, and the 9,000 men and women who now work there, fully deserve the very good wages they receive and their really excellent housing which has been paid for out of the profits which they have made for their country.

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GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Phyllis Rosner

I came to the German Democratic Republic in October 1952. It is true I came here with the knowledge that a new Germany—one that the world had never known before—was being built; but I came with doubts, with scepticism. I wondered whether the old Nazi spirit had been destroyed. I could not rid myself of the memory of Hitler and Goering, of the raids on Coventry and London, of the concentration camps.

Now, after two and a half years here I can say that those doubts have disappeared. I have learned that in the German Democratic Republic there is no place for Nazi war criminals, nobody is going to put the clock back here. I have learned what this new Germany is creating and what socialism, developing under extraordinarily difficult conditions, offers the people.

My education—and it has been an education—began almost as soon as I arrived here. On the way from the airfield we drove through Stalin Allee and my companion told me a little about the project.

For the first few weeks I lived in an hotel not very far away and whenever I could spare an hour I used to go to Stalin Allee, completely fascinated by how quickly the buildings were going up.

I was curious to know who was living in these buildings. I rang bells at random, talked to the women, found out what their husbands did and why they in particular should be living in Stalin Allee. I found that the flats had been allocated to those who had contributed in various ways to developing the German Democratic Republic. Workers and intellectuals were in the flats and, among them, those who had performed Herculean labours in clearing away the rubble.

Very soon, too, I learned to appreciate the People's Police. It was hard for me, as an English person, to grasp that the police here are, so to speak, on 'our' side. In England our police are said to be "wonderful", and of course in some ways they are. If you ask the way they are always ready to assist; they help lost children to find their parents, and help drunks out of trouble. But woe betide if you happen to be demonstrating for peace or against German rearmament. Then they are ferocious and brutal, they attack men and women with their batons and the mounted police ride them down on the pavements.

Another thing that constantly impresses me is the manner in which people are given the chance to develop themselves, in a way which would be unthinkable in my country. I remember, for instance, a few days after I arrived here, the liftman asked me one evening where I was going. When I told him I was going to hear Beethoven's opera "Fidelio" he said to me, "Why don't you come to the discussion on "Fidelio" which is being held here in the hotel?"

When I entered the room I saw the electrician sitting there in his overalls, one of the waiters who had just come off duty, a chambermaid and several "back-room boys" whose faces were unfamiliar to me. They were intently listening to the lecturer, a man of 35, director of a people's music school. He was obviously enjoying himself and so was his audience. As soon as he had finished the questions started, among them, "Don't you think we should have regular talks on music?" and "Can we bring our families to these discussions?" And then a further discussion was arranged to be held after they had seen "Fidelio".

This is just one small example of what seem to me to be boundless opportunities to learn and develope here. I recall talking to a nurse of 23 who told me that if she wanted she could train to be a doctor. I remember a young girl, chief dentist in the Sassnitz factory's magnificent clinic, youngsters of 18 I have met who are already assistants to directors of huge factories.

I remember the young foreman at Warnemuende shipbuilding and repair works telling us that at the end of the war, when he was still a boy, only 70 or 80 workers were employed there; now there are several thousand. And when we asked him how large the works would be, he said with a laugh, "Oh, we shall never end with our expansion, it will go on and on."

The people are changing and also the look of East Berlin and the cities of the German Democratic Republic. When I first came there were so many ruins in this part of Berlin, the city seemed to be completely dominated by them. Now many still remain, but there are green squares, the 200-year-old opera house will soon re-open, new blocks of flats and rebuilt houses are springing up everywhere.

The shops are brighter as well. They were grey and drab in the first few months, but now they are fuller and more colourful. Window displays could be vastly improved, though, and I do not know why they are not changed more often.

I am always impressed by the number of people reading books in the trains and trams, and even more impressed by the wonderful selection of cheap, well-printed books. It is a real joy to go into the bookshops here, although the demand seems far to exceed supply, since I am always being told that the very book I want is sold out.

Life here has its irritations too. For instance the bus which should come every twenty minutes sometimes does not arrive at all, or perhaps, even worse, comes early. Then I recall the over-zealous doormen, or the grim rush to board a train, or the men who nearly always seem to beat the women in the search for seats in the S-Bahn and U-Bahn.

But these are small irritations. The main, important things are going entirely in the other direction. For instance I know that there are no leading Nazis or SS men in power.

I have attended trials here and have heard western agents (mostly Nazi veterans) sentenced to death for spying and sabotage. And I have been in West Germany and seen a healthy, ruddy-faced Kesselring (released from prison on grounds of "ill-health") being feted, and I know that such a thing would be impossible here. I have seen that here there is work and opportunity for all, that everybody gets a paid holiday, that men and women get equal pay, and I have seen that Germany's great cultural heritage is available for all the people.

But there is grumbling too. I always remember my neighbour, who answered quite seriously—when I said "Isn't it fine that there are tomatoes in the shops again!"—"Yes, but aren't they too big?"

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